

Safety Net for Our Seniors

"I believe that 'Honor Thy Mother and Father' is a good commandment to live by and a good policy to govern by. We must do what we can to help seniors be as independent and active as possible."

Senator Mikulski is fighting for Maryland's seniors as a member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee and as the senior Democrat on the Committee's Retirement Security and Aging Subcommittee.

Fighting to Strengthen Medicare

Senator Mikulski is working to reform Medicare by supporting legislation that:

- Allows the government to negotiate the lowest drug prices.
- Closes the coverage gap.
- Provides affordable premiums and co-pays.
- Cuts benefits to drug companies.
- Legalizes the safe importation of FDA-approved drugs.

Working Toward Prevention

Senator Mikulski believes prevention is the best medicine and stays on the side of cures and research by:

- Supporting efforts to increase federal investment in stem cell research.
- Fighting to increase and expand Alzheimer's research.
- Successfully fought to strengthen preventative health care by:
 - Requiring Medicare to cover mammograms, pap smears, colon cancer screening, osteoporosis screening, glucose monitoring and flu shots.
 - Expanding research on elder falls, and improving the treatment and rehabilitation of fall victims.
 - Doubling the National Institutes of Health budget.
 - Doubling the budget of the National Institute on Aging for research on diseases that affect older Americans.

Working to Ease Financial Burdens on Seniors and Their Families

Senator Mikulski is creating opportunities to make life more affordable for seniors and their families by:

- Working to provide financial relief for caregivers who are helping family members with chronic conditions.
- Fighting for a tax credit to help individuals plan ahead for their long-term medical needs.
- Continuing to support the Spousal Anti-Impoverishment Act, which she successfully fought for to let seniors keep their homes, cars and some income for survival while their spouse is in nursing home care.
- Fighting to make sure that the surviving spouse of a deceased Social Security beneficiary receives at least half, and up to the entire check, for the last month of the beneficiary's life.

Fighting for Pensions Seniors Can Count On

Senator Mikulski is fighting for pension reform that:

- Protects workers' pensions.
- Rewards good-guy businesses.
- Protects the American taxpayer.

Protecting Critical Services and Resources for America's Seniors

Senator Mikulski is fighting to make sure the federal budget includes full funding for critical senior programs:

- Older Americans Act – supports essential services to America's seniors, including nutrition programs, preventive health services and community senior centers.
- National Family Caregiver Support Program – creates a system that provides respite care, caregiver counseling, and information about resources and assistance for caregivers nationwide.
- Meals on Wheels Nutritional Program – provides meals to thousands of seniors nationwide.
- Preventive Health Services Program – educates seniors on making healthy lifestyle choices.